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NATO AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE NEED FOR MEASURES TO CONTROL IT AS A SAFEGUARD FOR HUMANITY.

VOICE: THEOLOGIANS THE WORLD OVER AGREE THAT MAN, AS A SPIRITUAL CREATURE, IS MADE UP OF TWO ELEMENTS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER--A FORCE FOR GOOD AND A FORCE FOR EVIL. ATOMIC SCIENTISTS HAVE LONG APPLIED A SIMILAR RULE OF THUMB TO THE INHERENT NATURE OF THE ATOM. AND STATESMEN IN MANY COUNTRIES HAVE CONCURRED. PRESIDENT FORD RECENTLY STATED THE PROBLEM IN SIMPLE TERMS IN ANNOUNCING NEW AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR HALTING MISUSE OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS. HE SAID: 'ON THE ONE HAND, NUCLEAR ENERGY REPRESENTS ONE OF THE BEST HOPES FOR SATISFYING THE RISING WORLD DEMAND FOR ENERGY. ON THE OTHER HAND," HE SAID, "NUCLEAR FUEL, AS IT PRODUCES POWER, ALSO PRODUCES PLUTONIUM. THE PLUTONIUM CAN BE RECYCLED AND USED TO GENERATE ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR POWER. UNFORTUNATELY -- AND THIS IS THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM," SAID MISTER FORD, "THE SAME PLUTONIUM CAN, WHEN CHEMICALLY SEPARATED, ALSO BE USED FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES."

THAT'S THE DILEMMA THAT HAS FACED THE WORLD FOR THE PAST THIRTY YEARS -- HOW TO CONTROL THE EVIL SIDE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WITHOUT IMPAIRING THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM ITS GOOD SIDE. IN PAST YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS TRIED WITH VARYING SUCCESS TO DEAL WITH THE CORE PROBLEM--NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. AND SO HAS THE UNITED NATIONS THROUGH ITS INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE THROUGH THEIR SO-CALLED EURATOM AUTHORITY. BUT THE DEMAND FOR THE PEACEFUL BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD AND WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES PROLIFERATING MORE AND MORE NATIONS HAVE BEEN ABLE

TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN NUCLEAR PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES.

AT ITS WILLIAMSBURG MEETING THIS WEEK, THE JUST-CONCLUDED NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION ASSEMBLY ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THIS PROBLEM. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LEGISLATORS FROM NATO COUNTRIES ADOPTED A RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM--A DOCUMENT IT WILL PASS ON TO THE NATO COUNCIL FOR ACTION. IN ESSENCE, THE RESOLUTION SEEKS TO STRIKE AT THE GROWING SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY THROUGH THE COMMERCIAL SALE OR TRANSFER OF PLANTS WHICH SEPARATE PLUTONIUM OR THE EXPORTATION OF THAT MATERIAL AND OTHER ATOMIC FUELS. THE RESOLUTION ALSO SEEKS TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE CONTROLS OVER THE WHOLE ISSUE OF PROLIFERATING NUCLEAR PRODUCTION.

THE DELEGATIONS VOTING FOR THE RESOLUTION, THE U.S. INCLUDED, BASED THEIR ACTION ON THE CONVICTION THAT EXPORTS OR DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS CREATES WORLD INSTABILITY. SUCH EXPORTS, THEY FEEL, PARTICULARLY TEND TO ESCALATE CONCERN AMONG NEIGHBORS OF THE COUNTRIES RECEIVING THE WHEREWITHAL TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. ACCORDINGLY, MOST OF THE NATO DELEGATES VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION WHICH, BRIEFLY, CALLS FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS OR PLANTS UNTIL ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS CAN BE WORKED OUT BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY. THE NATO DOCUMENT ADVOCATES URGENT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND EURATOM.

IF THE WORLD COMMUNITY FOLLOWS UP THE NATO INITIATIVE IN A POSITIVE MANNER, THE WILLIAMSBURG MEETING COULD WELL GO DOWN AS A MILESTONE IN MAN'S EFFORT TO CONTROL THE ATOM.

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